

Elderberry Pie



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Table of Contents

Chapter One:

Grand-mère and the Elderberries 4

Chapter Two:

Nettie 10

Chapter Three:

Julie 18

Chapter Four:

Grand-mère's Pie Shop 26

About Us 32

Chapter One



Grand-mère and the Elderberries

Nettie walked along the path at the forest's edge where the wild elderberries grew. The bushes were thick and lush. She could almost taste the sweet, dark purple berries. *Grand-mère*, Nettie's grandmother, used to come here when they were in season. She would pick the berries to make tea.

Thinking about *Grand-mère* made Nettie smile. Nettie loved that her mother had named her after *Grand-mère*. She loved that all the village came to her when they had coughs and fevers.



Her elderberry tea was known far and wide for helping all who suffered. It helped to heal them. Everyone said that Grand-mère was the best healer in Giverny. Nettie knew it was true.

The berries were in two more tasty recipes. Grand-mère made a tasty jam that she served with fresh bread. Delicious! Also, she made pies. Elderberry pies. The best pies in Giverny. The best pies in France. The best pies in the world!

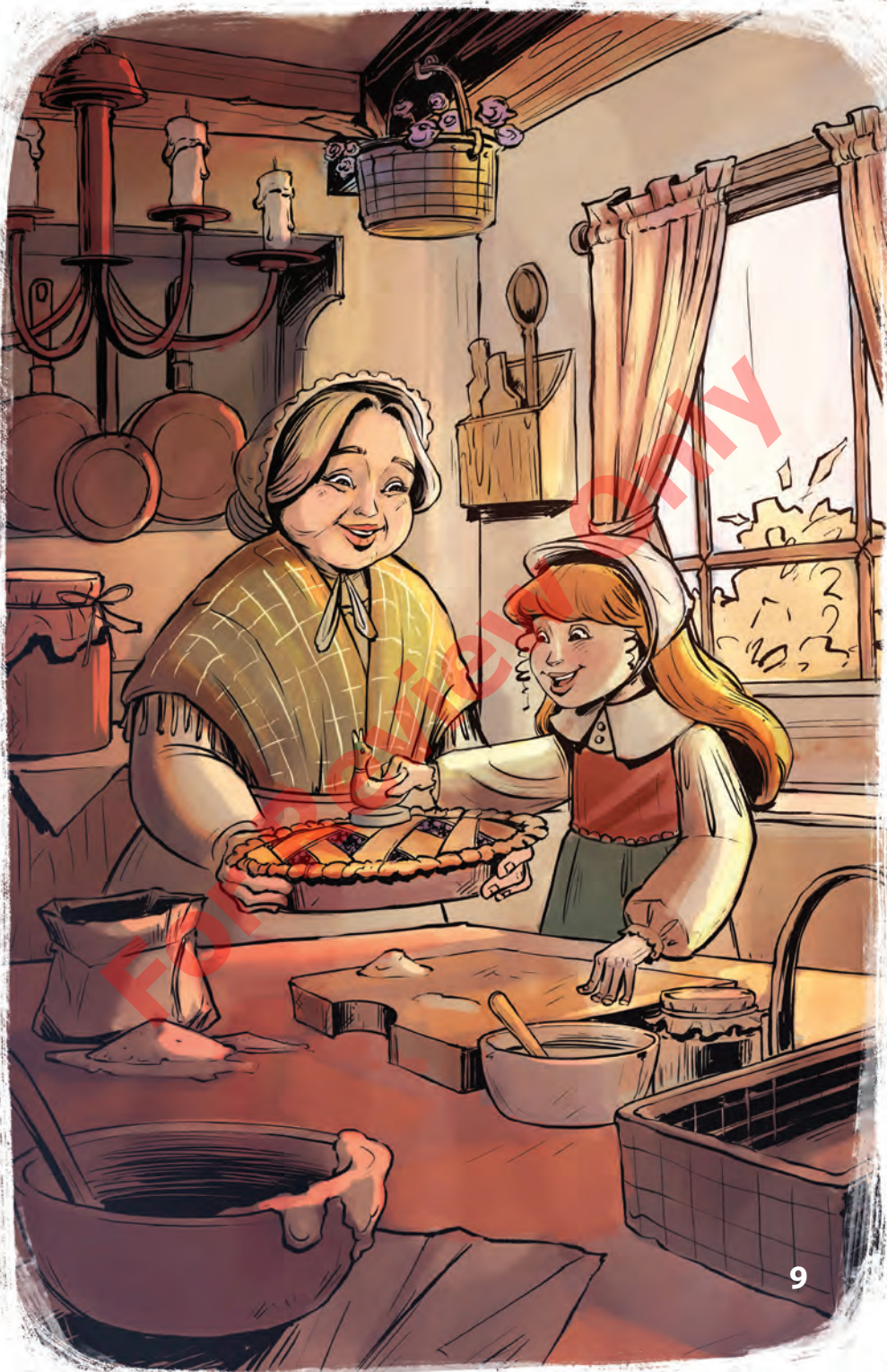


Maman, Nettie's mother, knew how to make the tea. Estelle, Nettie's sister, knew how to make the jam. But it was Nettie whom Grand-mère taught to make the pies. It had been a year since Grand-mère passed. Nettie's heart was often heavy missing her dear grandmother. But the smell of the berries brought Grand-mère near. Nettie could hear her voice saying, "Mix the berries this way, Nettie. Press the crust just so."



Nettie could almost feel Grand-mère's hands on her hands, helping her to knead and shape the dough. And then together, they placed the *canard*—the duck. It was a little ceramic figurine that went in the center of the pie. Pressed down, it helped the steam escape as the pie baked to perfection. The duck, the berries, and Grand-mère—Nettie loved them all.





Elderberry Pie

The elderberries that grow outside Giverny are dark and delicious. They are just right for pie making! Nettie and her family make the pies together. They have been passing down the recipe—and their love—through the generations.

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